In the Claims:

Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 21, and 22 are pending in the application with claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, and 12 amended and new claims 21 and 22 added herein.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A prosthetic valve in the form of a flap valve that ~~which~~ includes at least one flap arranged to allow movement of liquid through the valve only in one direction, the ~~or each~~ at least one flap being made entirely of a flexible openwork structure of a medically acceptable metal, wherein the flexible openwork structure is selected from the group consisting of: knitted wire ~~having intermeshing loops~~ and chainmail.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve ~~includes~~ has a single flap ~~arranged to close against~~ and further includes a peripheral stent that provides a supporting wall against which said single flap is arranged to close ~~mounted upon a peripheral stent~~.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve includes two flaps arranged to close against each other.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 3 wherein said valve ~~also~~ further includes a peripheral stent supporting a wall extending at right angles to the plane of the stent and providing two opposed cutouts in which said [[the]] flaps are mounted.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve includes three flaps of similar size, arranged to close against each other.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 5 wherein said valve also includes a peripheral rib ~~around the perimeter of the valve~~.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 5 wherein said valve ~~also~~ further includes a peripheral stent upon which the three flaps are mounted.

Claim 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of promoting tissue growth and endothelialisation, minimising the risk of foreign body infection following the fitting of a prosthetic valve in a living subject, said method including the provision of a prosthetic valve in the form of a flap valve that ~~, which~~ includes at least one flap arranged to allow movement of liquid through the prosthetic valve only in one direction[[,]] and in which the ~~or each~~ at least one flap is made entirely of a flexible open work structure of a medically acceptable metal, wherein the flexible openwork structure is selected from the group consisting of: knitted wire ~~having intermeshing loops~~ and chainmail.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the prosthetic valve is a heart valve.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 11 ~~wherein the or each~~ further comprising coating the at least one flap of the valve ~~is coated~~ with an inert degradable sealing material when the valve is initially fitted, the material reducing leakage through the flexible openwork structure until the living subject develops a coating by endothelialisation.

Claim 13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy.

Claims 15-20 (cancelled).

Claim 21 (new) The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein the knitted wire has intermeshing loops.

Claim 22 (new) The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the knitted wire has intermeshing loops.